



DAY TRIP TO GRUENE

From New Braunfels · Comal County, Texas



FARM AND
RANCH



Photo: Michael Barera, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0

HISTORIC DISTRICT

A revived ghost town, annexed by New Braunfels in 1979 and run as a shopping, dining and music district. The Handbook of Texas (revised 2015) estimates 20 residents.

Gruene is a few minutes from downtown New Braunfels and an easy half day on foot. Walk Hunter Road and Gruene Road, eat at the Gristmill in the gin ruins, and finish at Gruene Hall. Check the hall's calendar before you go: shows listed without ticket information are free.

A SAMPLE DAY

- ☐ 10:30 a.m. Leave downtown New Braunfels. Common Street, Loop 337 and Gruene Road take about nine minutes.
- ☐ 10:45 a.m. Start at the water tower and walk Hunter Road: the 1878 General Store, the 1904 brick mercantile and The Pomegranate.
- ☐ 11:30 a.m. Lunch at the Gristmill, which opens at 11, in the brick walls of the old gin above the river.
- ☐ 1 p.m. Gruene Hall. Walk in for a free show if one is on the calendar.
- ☐ 2 p.m. Walk Gruene Road past the Gruene Mansion Inn, then back to the car.
- ☐ Evening Come back for a ticketed show at the hall.

Coming from San Antonio? The route up I-35 takes about 47 minutes without traffic.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **Gruene Hall's false front.** Stand across Gruene Road, where the painted name and the water tower behind it fit in one frame.
- **The H. D. Gruene Mercantile.** The red-brick 1904 building on Hunter Road, with its name in the parapet.
- **The Gristmill's brick walls.** The buff-brick walls of the old gin, now a partly open-air restaurant, with the river below.
- **The Gruene Mansion.** The 1872 Victorian house on Gruene Road, now an inn, with its white fence and porch.
- **The Guadalupe.** Cypress trees line the river below the town.
- **Inside the hall.** The hall is dark next to the Texas sun, so expose for the interior. The hall's pages don't mention photography rules; ask staff before filming a ticketed show.



DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

 DRIVE	3 mi, about 9 min each way from downtown New Braunfels. From San Antonio: 36 mi, about 47 min.
 OPEN	The district is public streets. Its site posts no hours, and Gruene Hall's site lists shows and door times rather than daily hours. The Gristmill opens at 11 a.m. daily, closing at 9 p.m. Sunday to Thursday and 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday.
 ADMISSION	None for the district. Its site advertises free music daily; ticketed shows at Gruene Hall are priced per show.
 TIME ON SITE	The district's site gives no figure. It describes 15 walkable acres.
 RESTROOMS	Not stated on the district's site.
 FOOD AND WATER	The Gristmill, 1287 Gruene Road (830-625-0684), is in the old gin just behind the hall. The district's map lists other restaurants and shops.
 DOGS	Not allowed inside Gruene Hall. Dogs are welcome in its beer garden except during ticketed events; service animals that follow ADA guidelines are permitted.
 CHILDREN	Gruene Hall welcomes all ages unless a ticketed show says otherwise, and children pay full price for advance-ticketed shows.
 EVENTS	Old Gruene Market Days ran October 17 and 18, 2026, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with free admission and nearly 100 vendors. The 33rd Texas Clay Festival is listed for October 24 and 25, 2026.
 PHONE	Gruene Hall ticket help: 830-629-5077. Gristmill: 830-625-0684.
 WEBSITE	gruenetexas.com

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Keep out of unstable buildings and off fenced ruins.
- Leave artifacts where they lie. Removing them can be a crime.
- Carry water, a paper map and a charged phone; signal is often poor.

Coordinates 29.73833, -98.10389 · 29°44′18″N
98°06′14″W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/texas/gruene/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

Details checked October 2026. Hours, prices and access change: confirm before you go.